Status of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A process implemented across a network for providing a link to a preferred mirror instance within a plurality of mirror instances of a content store, comprising the steps of:

providing a server application at a web server and a client application at a client terminal, wherein the server application and the client application are integrated to provide localization decisions invisibly to a user, and to provide links to localized content from the server application to the client application;

determining localization information for each mirrored instance of the content store to each network server from which users connect, wherein the localization information comprises the number of hops and latency from each mirrored instance of the content store to each of the network servers;

storing the determined localization information;

receiving a request at the web server from a user at the client terminal, the request comprising ~~that includes~~ a link to mirrored content;

querying the localization database and applying a set of rules to the stored localization information through the server application at the web server to determine a preferred mirror instance for the client terminal, the rules comprising a function of the stored hop information and the stored latency information between each of the mirror instances and the client terminal ~~to the user, based upon the stored localization information~~;

dynamically generating a localized link to the determined preferred mirror instance through the server application at the web server; and

transmitting the localized link to the ~~user~~ client terminal.

2. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

automatically directing the user to the local mirror instance when the user selects the localized link.

3. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the function of the stored hop information and the stored latency information between each of the

mirror instances and the client terminal comprises a determination of a mirror instance having the lowest number of hops ~~localization information comprises a determined number of hops for each mirrored instance of the content store to each network from which users connect~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the function of the stored hop information and the stored latency information between each of the mirror instances and the client terminal comprises a determination of one or more mirror instances having the lowest number of hops, and in the case of a tie, the preferred mirror instance additionally comprises the lowest latency ~~localization information comprises a latency for each mirrored instance of the content store to each network from which users connect~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the localization information further comprises a transmission cost for each mirrored instance of the content store to each network from which users connect.

6. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the localization information further comprises mirror server load information.

7. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the localization information further comprises mirror server operation information.

8. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the localization information further comprises cost information.

9. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the localization information further comprises network segment information.

10. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein the localization information is stored in a database.

11. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the localization information is stored at ~~a web service~~ the web server.

12. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein the request comprises a web page.

13. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the localized link is included within a webpage, and wherein the webpage is transmitted to the ~~user~~ client terminal.

14. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the preferred mirror is further determined from the request IP address of the ~~user~~ client terminal.

15. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the preferred mirror is further determined from the request IP network of the user.

16. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein the localized link comprises an HTTP link.

17. (Currently Amended) A process implemented across a network for providing a link to a preferred mirror instance within a plurality of mirror instances of a content store, comprising the steps of:

providing a server application at a web server and a client application at a client terminal having a unique address, wherein the server application and the client application are integrated to provide localization decisions invisibly to a client user, and to provide links to localized content from the server application to the client application;

determining localization information for each mirrored instance of the content store to each network server from which users connect, wherein the localization information comprises the number of hops and latency from each mirrored instance of the content store to each network server from which client users connect;

storing the determined localization information;

receiving a request at the web server from ~~a user~~ the client terminal ~~comprising a unique address~~ , the request comprising ~~that includes~~ a link to the content store;

querying the localization database and applying a set of rules to the stored localization information through the server application at the web server to

determine a preferred mirror ~~to the user~~ instance for the client terminal, the rules comprising a function of the stored hop information and the stored latency information~~, based upon the stored localization information and~~ between each of the mirror instances and the unique address;

dynamically generating a localized link to the determined preferred mirror instance through the server application at the web server; and

transmitting the localized link to the ~~user~~ client terminal.

18. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 17, further comprising the step of:

automatically directing the client user at the client terminal to the preferred mirror when the client user selects the localized link.

19. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the function of the stored hop information and the stored latency information between each of the mirror instances and the client terminal comprises a determination of a mirror instance having the lowest number of hops ~~localization information comprises a determined number of hops for each mirrored instance of the content store to each network from which users connect~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the function of the stored hop information and the stored latency information between each of the mirror instances and the client terminal comprises a determination of one or more mirror instances having the lowest number of hops, and in the case of a tie, the preferred mirror instance additionally comprises the lowest latency ~~localization information comprises a latency for each mirrored instance of the content store to each network from which users connect~~.

21. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the localization information further comprises a transmission cost for each mirrored instance of the content store to each network from which users connect.

22. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the localization information further comprises mirror server load information.

23. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the localization information further comprises mirror server operation information.

24. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the localization information further comprises cost information.

25. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the localization information further comprises network segment information.

26. (Original) The process of Claim 17, wherein the localization information is stored in a database.

27. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the localization information is stored at ~~a web service~~ the web server.

28. (Original) The process of Claim 17, wherein the request comprises a web page.

29. (Original) The process of Claim 17, wherein the localized link is included within a webpage, and wherein the webpage is transmitted to the user.

30. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the preferred mirror instance is further determined from a request IP network of the user.

31. (Currently Amended) A proximity resource allocation system for providing a link from any network server within a plurality of ~~networks~~ network servers from which a user terminal ~~connect~~ having a unique address connects to a preferred mirror within a plurality of mirrors comprising a content store, comprising:

a server application at a web server that is integrated with a client application at the user terminal to provide localization decisions invisibly to a user, and to provide links to localized content from the server application to the client application; and

a localization database comprising storage of localization information for each mirror of the content store to each of the ~~networks~~ network servers,

wherein the localization information comprises the number of hops and latency from each of the plurality mirrors to each of the network servers; ~~and~~

~~a network service provider~~ the server application for receiving a request at the web server from ~~a~~ the user terminal ~~comprising a unique address that includes~~ , the request comprising a link to the content store, for ~~determining~~ querying the localization database and applying a set of rules to the stored localization information through the server application at the web server to determine a preferred mirror ~~to~~ for the user terminal, wherein the determination is invisible to the user, the rules comprising a function of the stored hop information and the stored latency information between each of the mirrors ~~based upon the stored localization information~~ and the unique address, for dynamically generating a localized link to the determined preferred mirror through the server application at the web server, and for transmitting the localized link to the user terminal.

32. (Original) The system of Claim 31, further comprising:

means to direct the user terminal to the preferred mirror upon a selection of the localized link.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein the function of the stored hop information and the stored latency information between each of the mirror instances and the client terminal comprises a determination of a mirror instance having the lowest number of hops ~~localization information comprises a determined number of hops from each mirror to each of the networks~~.

34. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein the function of the stored hop information and the stored latency information between each of the mirror instances and the client terminal comprises a determination of one or more mirror instances having the lowest number of hops, and in the case of a tie, the preferred mirror instance additionally comprises the lowest latency ~~localization information comprises a latency for each mirror of the content store to each of the networks~~.

35. (Original) The system of Claim 31, wherein the unique address comprises a terminal IP address.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein the localization information further comprises mirror server load information.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein the localization information further comprises mirror server operation status information.

38. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein the localization information further comprises cost information.

39. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein the localization information further comprises network segment information.

40. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein the localization information comprises a map of all IP address space within a global routing table.

41. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein the localization information further comprises triangulation tests and performance tests of the networks.

42. (Original) The system of Claim 31, wherein the request comprises a web page.

43. (Original) The system of Claim 31, wherein the localized link is included within a webpage, and wherein the webpage is transmitted to the user.